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HEALTH MINISTRY ISSUES DIRECTIVE ON CHOLERA PREVENTION;
EPIDEMIC HITS SOUTHERN KIANGSU

URGES PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CHOLERA -- Shanghai Chieh-fang Jih-pao, 15 Apr 50

The Health Ministry of the Central government and the Sanitation Section of the People's Liberation Army have issued a joint directive on precautions against cholera. This disease appears frequently in such large cities as Shanghai and Hankow, so all health offices in large centers or hospitals are urged to enlarge their personnel and equipment for sanitary and prophylactic measures.

Before the end of May, there should be a study of conditions. The people should be urged to avoid drinking unboiled water. Pollution must be guarded against, and soft-drink parlors inspected and kept clean. Sanitation and fly-swallowing movements should be started. Before 15 June, sanitation squads should be organized to immunize at least 50 percent of the population, where pestilence is likely to break out, against cholera, typhoid, and paratyphoid.

Careful inspection must be made along communication lines to prevent spread of these diseases. Any outbreak, especially of cholera, should be reported at once by wire or phone to the Central government. City health offices should give most attention to spots where the poorest people live. The directive states that East China, South and Central China, and Southwest China health bureaus should consider anticholera measures one of their most important tasks this spring. They should make reports to the Health Ministry every 2 weeks. Soldiers in South China should help in this, in addition to their regular duties.

ACUTE EPIDEMIC THREATENS KIANGSU -- Wu-hsi Su-nan Jih-pao, 15 Apr 50

An outbreak of an acute epidemic [disease not named] is reported in Hu-kuang-hsiang of the Pin-hu district in south Kiangsu Province. During 6 - 9 April, two women in the village came down with the disease. One died 12 hours after developing a severe headache, followed by deliriousness and fierce spasms in the cervical region.

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The epidemic, added to the already difficult living conditions in the T'ai-hu area, is seriously affecting the local populace. Peasants' associations in the afflicted areas are appealing to medical personnel and people in nonaffected areas to give speedy relief after formulating an effective measures to combat the spread of the disease.

SMALLPOX APPEARS IN SHANGHAI -- Tientsin Jih-pao, 15 Apr 50

A report received by the Public Health Bureau of Tientsin says that a smallpox epidemic is now prevalent in the harbor area of Shanghai. To prevent the spread of the disease into the Tientsin region, quarantine offices were set up in Tung-chan, Pei-chan, T'ang-ku, and Ch'in-huang-tao to inspect land and sea travelers. All travelers in Shanghai areas must carry certificates signifying that they have been inoculated against the disease. Quarantine offices and vaccination units in Tientsin and Shanghai are giving free vaccinations to travelers at present.

To prevent the spread of infectious diseases among the children in Tientsin, three-way diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus shots are being given to children 8 years old or younger. The antiepidemic campaign is expected to be completed by 1 June.

TIENTSIN VACCINATES AGAINST SMALLPOX -- Tientsin Jih-pao, 16 Apr 50

The Epidemic Prevention Unit of the Tientsin Public Health Bureau has reported that between 6 and 31 March 1950, it gave smallpox vaccinations to 364,222 persons in Tientsin. In the 8th district alone, 148,548 persons, or 71 percent of the entire population in that district, were vaccinated.

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